PROCEEDINGS
of
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

SECOND ASSEMBLY.

SECOND SESSION—1938/1113.

Wednesday, the 26th January 1938/13th Makaram 1113.

The House assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 26th January 1938/13th Makaram 1113, the President Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E., presiding

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Establishment of Churches.

215. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of applications sanctioned by Government for the establishment of churches (all denominations) from 1098 up to the end of 1112?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 493.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know the number of applications that were rejected during this period?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I have not got the figures for the whole period from 1098 to 1112. I shall give the figures for the last four years. In 1109, 37 applications were rejected, in 1110, 30; in 1111, 26; and in 1112, 25.

MR. A. J. JOHN: May I know whether these applications were rejected under the provisions of the Proclamations of 1074?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. J. JOHN: May I know whether applications were rejected simply because there were only very few Christian families in the neighbourhood?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: On that particular ground alone I don't think that any application has been rejected.

MR. A. J. JOHN May I know whether an application was rejected on the ground that there are only four Catholic families in the locality, by a Government order R. O. C. No. 2631/34 Gl,?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I claim notice, Sir. There may be other reasons for rejecting that application.

MR. A. J. JOHN: May I know whether there is any provision in the Proclamation that the application would be rejected if the site is near the dwelling houses of Hindus or non-Christians?

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RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: There is no such provision in the Proclamation.

MR. A. J. JOHN: May I know whether any application was rejected on that ground —I mean, G. O. R. O. C. No. 403/33 Genl.

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I claim notice, Sir.

MR. A. J. JOHN: May I know whether in G. O. R. O. C. No. 3417/31 Gl. regarding the grant of sanction, proximity to non-Catholic houses was considered the reason for rejecting an application?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I claim notice Sir. I have not got the relevant file with me to answer the question.

PRESIDENT: If any allegations to the effect that applications were rejected on grounds not within the Proclamation is transmitted to the Secretariat, that will be carefully considered. I may say however that in many cases Government receive petitions from persons belonging to other communities and sub-communities saying that a church is going to be established to draw away people from such sub-communities and that if it is allowed to do so there may be breaches of peace. That may be one of the reasons probably to reject such applications. In any case if any such alleged infraction of the provisions of the Proclamation is brought to the notice of Government before the questions are asked, the honourable member may be in a better position to elucidate those questions, by replying to them properly.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW (*Karunagapally* cum *Karthigapally*): Is there any provision in the Proclamation to reject application?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The Proclamation is available to the Hon'ble member and he can see for himself whether it contains provisions for rejecting applications.

MR. T. M. VERGHESE (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it true that in practice the site applied for should be approved by the Devaswom Department before granting sanction?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The usual procedure is that applications are sent to the Devaswom Commissioner to report whether there are places of public worship belonging to the Hindus in the vicinity. If there are such places of public worship clashes between the Hindus and the Christians may occur, resulting in breaches of peace. Government make their decisions on the applications after they receive the reports from the Devaswom Commissioner to satisfy themselves that a breach of peace is not likely to take place.

MR. M. G MATTHEW: Is there any similar provision in the British India?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI I do not know.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Is there any provision in the Proclamation that only on certain grounds and on no other grounds an application can be rejected?

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RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I don't think that the grounds for rejecting the applications are specified in the Proclamation.

MR. T. M. VERGHESE: Are there any instances that sanctions have been accorded in spite of the disapproval of the Devaswom Commissioner?

PRESIDENT: To my certain knowledge a number of.

MR. M. G. MATTHEW: May I know the grounds on which an application can be rejected and an application can be granted.

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The Proclamation is there and the Hon'ble Member can find out for himself whether specific grounds are given therein for the acceptance or rejection of applications. If grounds are not given therein I claim notice to answer the question.

Bridge at the Muthoor Ferry.

216. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have or the Chief Engineer or the Kottayam Executive Engineer has received any representation from the public of Tiruvalla regarding the urgent need for the construction of a bridge at the Muthoor ferry within the Tiruvella Municipality; and

(*b*) the action taken in the matter?

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR (*Deputy Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*):

(*a*) No. A representation was received by Government from the President, Municipal Council, Thiruvella.

(*b*) The work was not sanctioned owing to its prohibitive cost.

Bridge near the Vettical Market.

217. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the present condition of the small bridge near the Vettikkal market on the Vayipoor road in Tiruvalla taluk; and

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps to improve the condition of this bridge?

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR. (*a*) The bridge which has been constructed by the ryots is a poor construction, though it is not in a dangerous condition.

(*b*) Yes.

The Kulathupaikulam in Tiruvalla taluk.

218. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer or the Irrigation Executive Engineer has received any representation from the public of Thadakkad in Koiprom pakuthi, Tiruvalla taluk, regarding early repairs being made to the Kulathupaikulam (situated in survey Nos. 133/3 and 133/4);

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